

TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT
ISSUE: ASSET MANAGEMENT
Comments from Planning Team at 7/28/03 Meeting

Overall

- We have seen every presentation and we have made huge improvements over the last several years. We are on track and doing a better job of managing our systems. Bridge conditions and roads have improved. We are doing good things. We need to recognize this and improve on it.
- All information very valuable and good. Lots of new resources.
- We have tools that have been made available and we are beginning to use these tools and we need to have more coordination and continue to expand on these tools.
- Learned today that we don't have a well defined vision for all of these issues and how they play into the transportation system of the future. Transportation has not been looked at from an operational view point as a broad transportation system, as an asset, and it needs to be viewed differently.
- Broaden definition of assets - don't think roads matter but it is the communities that the roads connect. That is the asset. Focus is not necessarily on the right thing. Must think about the impact of roads and maintenance projects. Roads don't matter but it is the communities. A lot of communities are getting abandoned.
- Like to travel in and out of Michigan. When crossing border into Michigan roads get rough. Number of people that bicycle across nation have already been warned about roads in Michigan. One person's frame broke riding across our roads. We have rougher roads. Michigan for some reason has rougher roads than other states. Don't know why? What is unique about Michigan? What are we doing that other state's don't do? We don't have enough money.
- Communication between jurisdictions has improved considerably over last 6 years. A lot more cooperation between road commissions and MPOs and other agencies. Tremendously encouraging.
- Concerned about lots of information but don't have standardized measures over historical data. Not clear that we will meet 90% goal. Look at ride quality index and we are a little worse off. We need to have good measures to stay in place and watch those.

Technology

- Learned that we have the technology and know how to maintain existing structure. We know how to evaluate and do it but I learned today we could do them well if we had funding.
- Technology is an opportunity to help us meet some of the challenges that have been defined so far. Could be cost cutting to help us connect a number of issues that have been identified and it can be part of the solutions to many of the issues.

Alternate modes of Transportation

- Have a preservation system and maintenance of existing system but only talking about highway paving. Need to talk more to transportation system than pavement. Need to take a broader view of transportation and look at other transportation assets beyond pavement; i.e., busses, railroads, airports, ports, non motorized. Broaden views of asset management for transportation. Example: terminal in Detroit, look at railroads (held in private sector but asset when looking at broad transportation vision for Michigan's future).
- Look at more alternative modes of transportation. Transportation for other purposes than getting from point A to point B. For example, trails, waterways, things that are related to recreation/quality of life issues.
- Lack of choice when coming to transportation. Choices are few and slim and don't have opportunity to say what is better mode, easier way, quickest way?

Funding

- Any long term look at how transportation is provided has to look at the fact that you have 617 individual agencies managing routes. 54% of agencies receive less than \$200,000 per year from Act 51. Not that we don't have enough money, but that it is diluted to too many agencies. Limits the work that can be done. Can increase taxes but won't mean much to many agencies because money is so diluted. Can ask for more money but won't make roads better.
- Need to do more Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). Over last year, for example Amtrak was asked to stand and deliver. Like to see CBA for getting money. Subsidies from various areas, road building isn't held to same standards as railroads. Don't see statutory caps put on road building, like Amtrak. Like to see a CBA to see what it costs to move people, by mode, per mile for each transportation project that is considered. Don't just look at dollars and cents but look at the cost to the community as a whole. Now our transportation system is lop sided. Most transportation money goes into roads. We need to make sure we are spending the money appropriately by doing a CBA.
- More funding can help. We have seen it in the past and has helped the roads/bridges to improve.
- With 4% increase it moved us from 49th to 45th. Any increase of funding will help us improve our transportation systems.